

**City of Sunnyvale - Department of Public Safety  
Fire & Environmental Services  
408/730-7212**

**PLACES OF ASSEMBLY  
General Regulations and Guidelines**

- **Places of Assembly** - These are businesses with **50 or more persons** gathered together for the purpose of food or drink consumption, social or religious functions, recreation or instruction. The premises shall include the occupant capacity of the room, which should be **posted** in a conspicuous place near the main exit from the room. California Fire Code, Sections 105 and 2501.16.1
- **Overcrowding** - Admittance of persons beyond the approved and posted occupant capacity is **prohibited**. Business management is responsible for obtaining a continuous and accurate occupant tally. California Fire Code, Section 2501.16.3.
- **Exit Doors** - Doors shall **swing in the direction of the path of exit travel**. Exit doors shall be openable from the inside without the use of a key or any special knowledge or effort. Exit doors **shall not** be locked, chained, bolted, barred, latched or otherwise rendered unusable. Exit doors shall not be provided with a latch or lock unless it is panic hardware. **Exception:** The main exit door or one leaf of a pair of main exit doors, may be provided with a key-locking device, provided a readily visible sign is adjacent to the doorway stating "**THIS DOOR MUST REMAIN UNLOCKED DURING BUSINESS HOURS.**" California Fire Code Sections 1207.2, 1207.3 and 2501.8.2.
- **Exit Signs** - Signs shall be readily visible from any direction of approach. Exit signs shall be internally or externally **illuminated**. In case of primary power loss, exit signs must remain illuminated for duration of not less than 1-1/2 hours by being connected to batteries or emergency generator. **Exception:** Approved self-luminous signs that provide continuous illumination independent of an external power source. California Fire Code, Sections 1212.2, 1212.4 and 1212.5.
- **Emergency Lighting** - Businesses with an occupant capacity of 100 or more shall be provided with emergency lighting. California Building Code, Section 1003.2.9.1 and 1003.2.9.2.
- **Means of Egress** - Means of egress shall not be obstructed in any manner and shall remain free of any material or matter where its presence would obstruct or render the means of egress hazardous. California Fire Code, Section 1203, California Code of Regulations Title 19, Section 3.11(a)-(d)
- **Decorative Materials** - Drapes, curtains, hangings and other decorative materials shall be flame resistant. California Fire Code, Section 1103.3.3 and California Code of Regulations, Title 19, Section 3.08.

- **Candle and Other Open-Flame Decorative Devices** - Only approved candles and open-flame devices are permitted. Check with Fire Prevention Bureau regarding this. California Fire Code, Sections 2501.17 and 1109.8.
- **Fireworks, Pyrotechnics & Flame Special Effects** - These are **prohibited**. California Fire Code, Sections 105 and 7801.3.
- **Portable Fire Extinguishers** – Shall not be obstructed from view, shall be maintained in operating condition and fully charged, and have a maximum travel distance is 75 feet. Extinguishers shall be maintained and serviced annually California Fire Code, Sections 1002.1 and California Code of Regulations Title 19, 575, 567, 568.

